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Appl. No. 10/715,408

*Amendments to the Claims*

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

~~recognizing whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address is about to be sent, after a send function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and~~

~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized alerting a system user on the sending side as to the complete~~ electronic mail message being is about to be sent; and

~~allowing a user to authorize sending of the complete~~ electronic mail message.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent comprises detecting that a send function is~~has been initiated by an unauthorized agent.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the unauthorized agent ~~is the~~ a virus.

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4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein said recognizing recognizes a send operation initiated by the user~~further comprising stopping transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein said recognizing recognizes a send operation initiated by an unauthorized agent including the virus~~further comprising deleting the unauthorized electronic mail message prior to transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.

6. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address is about to be sent, after a send function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side~~from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

~~stopping transmission of the complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message ~~until authorized by a user.~~

7. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address is about to be sent, after a send function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side~~from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

~~providing a user with an opportunity to consider canceling~~deleting the unauthorized

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~~electronic mail message, prior to transmission of the completeunauthorized electronic mail message-until authorized by the user.~~

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in ~~claim 7~~claim 1, further comprising displaying the ~~completeunauthorized~~ electronic mail message ~~to the user after the send function is initiated in an interface configured to input an instruction to allowing the user to~~ modify the ~~completeunauthorized~~ electronic mail message, cancel transmission of the ~~completeunauthorized~~ electronic mail message ~~and/or~~ authorize transmission of the ~~completeunauthorized~~ electronic mail message.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

~~an e-mail transmission system having a sending side and a receiving side; and~~

~~an e-mail system recognizing a complete~~a computing device configured to:

send an e-mail message;

recognize that an unauthorized e-mail message composed by a virus and

~~having a valid recipient address, is about to be sent, after a send function has been initiated, by a user via the transmission system, alerting a user on the sending side as to the addressees of the complete e-mail message and allowing the user to authorize sending of the complete e-mail message~~from the computing device; and

provide at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized e-mail message is about to be sent from the computing device.

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10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon, computer executable instructions that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method comprising~~for controlling a computer including a computer program;~~

~~recognizing whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address, is to about be sent, ~~after a send function has been initiated, from the computing device; and~~

~~alerting a user as to the complete~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message being about to be sent and allowing the user to authorize sending of the complete electronic mail message.

11. (Currently Amended) An electronic mail message alert display, comprising:

a text display that provides an alert indicating that~~alerting a user on a sending side as to a complete an unauthorized~~ electronic mail message composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address, is about to be sent; after a send function has been initiated,

a list of addressees; and

an interface element allowing the user to authorize that enables selective input of an instruction that stops transmission of the complete~~unauthorized~~ electronic mail message.

12. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method ~~associated with messages of a user,~~ comprising:

~~determining whether~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~having at least a minimum of parts needed to be a valid electronic mail message and composed by a virus is about to be sent from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and~~

~~alerting the user as to providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the~~  
unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent.

13. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method ~~associated with messages of a user, comprising:~~

~~determining whether~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message having at least a  
minimum of parts needed to be a valid electronic mail message and composed by a virus is  
about to be sent from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message is  
being sent by an unauthorized agent; and

~~alerting the user as to providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the~~  
unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent; ~~and~~

~~allowing the user to permit sending of the electronic mail message to be sent.~~

Claims 14 - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

~~recognizing whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message  
composed by a process configured to compose an unauthorized electronic mail message and  
having a valid recipient address is about to be sent, after a send function has been initiated,  
from a sending side to a receiving side from a computing device configured to send an  
electronic mail message; and

~~alerting a system user on the sending side as to the complete~~providing at the  
computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to  
be sent; and

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~~allowing a user to authorize sending of the complete electronic mail message.~~

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the process is a virus.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the process is an unauthorized agent.

26. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

~~recognizing whether a complete~~that an electronic mail message is about to be sent from a ~~sending side to a receiving side, wherein the complete~~computing device configured to send an electronic mail message is an unauthorized electronic mail message, ~~has a valid recipient address, and is to be sent after a send function has been initiated; and~~

~~alerting a system user on the sending side about the complete~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent; and

~~allowing a user to authorize sending of the complete electronic mail message.~~

27. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product including a tangible computer-readable medium containing~~having stored thereon, computer executable instructions that, ~~when if~~ executed by a ~~processor~~computing device, ~~causes the processor~~cause the computing device to perform processes of a method comprising:

~~recognizing whether a complete~~that an electronic mail message is about to be sent

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~~from a sending-side to a receiving-side, wherein the complete~~computing device configured to send an electronic mail message is an unauthorized electronic mail message, ~~has a valid recipient address, and is to be sent after a send function has been initiated; and~~

~~alerting a system user on the sending side about the complete~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent; and

~~allowing a user to authorize sending the complete~~ electronic mail message.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) An e-mail system, comprising:

means for recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent from a ~~sending-side to a receiving-side, wherein the complete~~computing device configured to send an electronic mail message ~~is composed by an unauthorized agent, has a valid recipient address, and is to be sent after a send function has been initiated; and~~

means for ~~alerting a system user on the sending side about the complete~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent; and

~~means for allowing a user to authorize sending the complete~~ electronic mail message.